

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



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2018/19 Alaska Weathervane Scallop Guideline Harvest Levels

The commercial weathervane scallop fishery in the Exclusive Economic Zone (3–200 nmi) of Alaska is jointly managed by the State of Alaska and the federal government under the *Fishery Management Plan for the Scallop Fishery off Alaska* (FMP). The FMP was developed by the North Pacific Fishery Management Council under provisions of the *Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act* (MSA). Most aspects of scallop fishery management in federal waters are delegated to the State of Alaska. However, the MSA mandates all FMP fisheries be managed under annual catch limits (ACLs) that account for all sources of mortality to ensure overfishing does not occur. The 2018/19 season scallop guideline harvest levels (GHLs) established by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) comply with federal ACL requirements.

Weathervane scallop fisheries in the Yakutat, Kodiak, Alaska Peninsula, Dutch Harbor, and Bristol Bay–Bering Sea areas will open on July 1, 2018. The Cook Inlet Area will be closed for the 2018/19 season due to low estimated abundance. The Prince William Sound Area scallop season is yet to be determined and will be announced following completion of the ADF&G survey in late June 2018.

During the 2018/19 season, ADF&G will assess inseason fishery performance as measured by CPUE and/or monitor crab bycatch. Poor fishery performance or excessive crab bycatch may result in area, or partial area, closures prior to achieving the full GHL. GHLs for the 2018/19 scallop season and crab bycatch limits are listed below.

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Registration Area	Guideline Harvest Level (pounds of shucked meat)	Crab bycatch limit (number of crab)	
		Tanner crab	King crab
Yakutat	145,000	NA	NA
Prince William Sound	TBD	TBD	NA
Cook Inlet	Closed	NA	NA
Kodiak			
Northeast District	15,000	9,000	25
Shelikof District	25,000 ^a	12,500	25
Southwest District	30,000	18,000	25
Southeast District	15,000	7,500	25
Semidi District ^b	<i>Exploratory area</i>		
Alaska Peninsula			
long 160° W to 161° W	7,500	3,750	25
Unimak Bight ^b	15,000	7,500	25
Dutch Harbor			
Bering Sea Waters	5,000	5,000	10
Pacific Ocean Waters	Closed	NA	NA
Bristol Bay-Bering Sea	7,500	65,000	500
		<u><i>C. opilio</i> and hybrids</u>	
		300,000	

^a Shelikof District GHL is divided with 20,000 pounds east of long 154° W and 5,000 pounds west of long 154° W.

^b Commissioner permit required to harvest scallops in the Semidi District and Unimak Bight.

NA = Not applicable

TBD = To be determined

Yakutat

The Yakutat District GHL will be 145,000 pounds of shucked meat. In January 2018, the Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF) modified regulation to combine District 16 and Area D under a single GHL for the Yakutat District.

Prince William Sound

The Prince William Sound Area commercial weathervane scallop season is yet to be determined for the 2018/19 season and an announcement will be issued following completion of the survey in late June.

Cook Inlet

The Cook Inlet Area Kamishak District commercial weathervane scallop season will be closed for the 2018/19 season. ADF&G survey results from 2018 indicate estimated scallop abundance declined sharply since the last survey in both the north and south beds and is at the lowest levels in the history of the survey. Biomass is less than half the amount required to open the commercial fishery by regulation (5AAC 38.330).

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Kodiak

The Northeast District GHL will be 15,000 pounds of shucked meat. The Shelikof District GHL will be 25,000 pounds of shucked meat; harvest will be capped at 20,000 pounds east of long 154° W and 5,000 pounds west of long 154° W. The Southwest District GHL will be 30,000 pounds of shucked meat. In March 2018, the BOF reduced closed waters in the Southwest District (see figure). The BOF additionally opened the Southeast District to scallop fishing; the 2018/19 GHL will be 15,000 pounds of shucked meat (see figure). Vessel operators in the Southwest and Southeast districts are encouraged to distribute effort to further delineate scallop beds within the newly opened areas.

Alaska Peninsula

Two areas in the Alaska Peninsula Area will open for the 2018/19 season. Pacific Ocean waters from 3–200 nautical miles off shore between long 160° W and 161° W will open with a GHL of 7,500 pounds of shucked meat. Pacific Ocean waters from 3–200 nautical miles off shore of Unimak Bight (west of a line extending south from Cape Pankof at long 163° 03.70' W and east of line extending south from Scotch Cap Light at long 164° 44.72' W) will open under the authority of a commissioner permit (5 AAC 38.420(c)(1)). The Unimak Bight GHL will be 15,000 pounds of shucked meat.

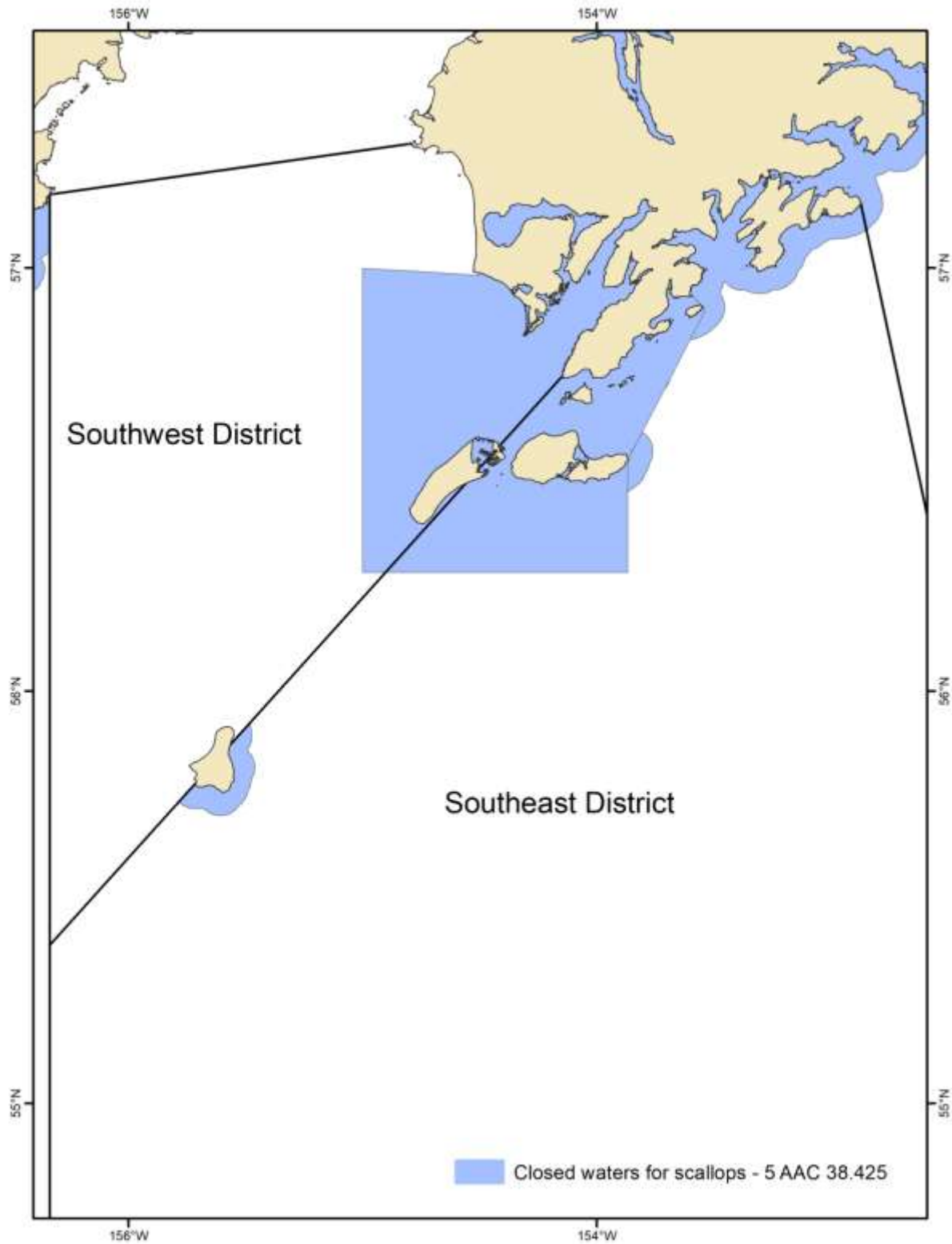
Dutch Harbor

The Dutch Harbor Area GHL will be 5,000 pounds of shucked meat in Bering Sea waters. Pacific Ocean waters of the Dutch Harbor Area will be closed for the 2018/19 season and will remain closed through the 2020/21 season.

Bristol Bay-Bering Sea

The Bristol Bay-Bering Sea Area GHL will be 7,500 pounds of shucked meat.

For additional information contact ADF&G in Kodiak (907-486-1840), Douglas (907-465-6393), Dutch Harbor (907-581-1239), or Homer (907-235-8191).



Closed waters for scallop fishing in the Southwest and Southeast districts of Kodiak Area (modified by the Alaska Board of Fisheries, March 2018; 5 AAC 38.425(1) and (2)).

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